(b) to (e) As the road has not been entrusted to the Public Works Department yet following no-objection from the State Government, the cost estimate etc. are yet to be framed.

(f) Do not arise.

Joint war games by Indian and US armies

1395. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian and US armies have joint war games in the recent past in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(d) the extent to which the Indian army has been benefited by such joint war games?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Exercise Yudh Abhyas 09, a joint exercise between Indian and US Armies was held at Babina, India from 12-29 October, 2009. It involved 01 Mechanized Battalion from the Indian Army side and Combat team involving 325 personnel from the US side.

(c) The expenditure incurred for the above exercise is Rs. 64 lakhs.

(d) Such exercises are found to benefit the Indian Army by gaining insights into the psyche, combat readiness, training standards, procedures, and technological capabilities of the US Army besides sharing of experience in the fields of Peace-keeping operations and disaster management.

Diversion of military land to private individuals

1396. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an army land scam involving diversion of military land to private individuals and entities has lately come to light;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to redeem the land and to punish the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir. However, a Court of Inquiry is in progress to investigate the circumstances under which No Objection Certificate was given and a Memorandum of Understanding signed for State land in Chumta Tea Estate in Sukna, Darjeeling.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.